



Harmony Wealth Strategies
William F. McAllister, Jr., CLU®
22 Morgan Farms Drive, Suite 4
South Windsor, CT 06074
860-836-9314
Bill@HarmonyWealthStrategies.com
www.HarmonyWealthStrategies.com

**Harmony Wealth
Strategies**

BUILDING AND SAFEGUARDING
YOUR FINANCIAL WORLD

Medicare

Medicare



Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance to retired individuals, regardless of their medical condition, and certain younger people with disabilities or end-stage renal disease. Here are some basic facts about Medicare that you should know.

What does Medicare cover?

Medicare coverage consists of two main parts: Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (medical insurance). These parts together are known as Original Medicare. A third part, Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage), covers all Part A and Part B services, and may provide additional services. A fourth part, Medicare Part D, offers prescription drug coverage that can help you handle the rising costs of prescriptions.

Medicare Part A (hospital insurance)

Generally known as hospital insurance, Part A covers services associated with inpatient hospital care. These are the costs associated with an overnight stay in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or psychiatric hospital, including charges for the hospital room, meals, and nursing services. Part A also covers hospice care and home health care.

Medicare Part B (medical insurance)

Generally known as medical insurance, Part B covers other medical care. Physician care — whether you received it as an inpatient at a hospital, as an outpatient at a hospital or other health-care facility, or at a doctor's office — is covered under Part B. Laboratory tests, physical therapy or rehabilitation services, and ambulance service are also covered. Medicare Part B also covers 100% of the cost of many preventative services and an annual wellness visit.

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage)

A Medicare Advantage plan is a private health-care plan that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits. A Medicare Advantage plan covers all of the services that Original Medicare covers except hospice care. Some plans offer extra coverage for expenses not covered by Original Medicare such as vision, hearing, dental, and other health expenses. Most also offer prescription drug (Part D) coverage. Several types of Medicare Advantage plans may be available, including health maintenance organization (HMO) plans, preferred provider organization (PPO) plans, private fee-for-service (PFFS) plans, and special needs plans (SNPs). You can choose to enroll in either Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, you'll generally pay a monthly premium for it, in addition to your Part B premium.

Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage)

All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible to join a Medicare prescription drug plan offered by private companies or insurers that have been approved by Medicare. Although these plans vary in price and benefits, they all cover a broad number of brand name and generic drugs available at local pharmacies or through the mail. Medicare prescription drug coverage is voluntary, but if you decide to join a plan, keep in mind that some plans cover more drugs or offer a wider selection of pharmacies (for a higher premium) than others. You can get information and help with comparing plans on the Medicare website, medicare.gov, or by calling a Medicare counselor at 1-800-Medicare.

What is not covered by Medicare Parts A and B?

Some medical expenses are not covered by either Part A or B. These expenses include:

- Your Part B premium
- Deductibles, coinsurance, or co-payments that apply
- Most prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Hearing aids
- Eye care
- Custodial care at home or in a nursing home

Medicare Part C may cover some of these expenses, or if you're enrolled in Original Medicare you can purchase a supplemental Medigap insurance policy that will help cover what Medicare does not.

Are you eligible for Medicare?

Most people age 65 or older who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States are eligible for Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) without paying a monthly premium. You are eligible at age 65 if:

- You receive or are eligible to receive Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board benefits based on your own work record or on someone else's work record (as a spouse, divorced spouse, widow, widower, divorced widow, divorced widower, or parent), or
- You or your spouse worked long enough in a government job where Medicare taxes were paid

In addition, if you are under age 65, you can get Part A without paying a monthly premium if you have received Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board disability benefits for 24 months, or if you are on kidney dialysis or are a kidney transplant patient.

Even if you're not eligible for free Part A coverage, you may still be able to purchase it by paying a premium. Call the Social Security Administration (SSA) at (800) 772-1213 for more information.

Although Medicare Part B (medical insurance) is optional, most people sign up for it. If you want to join a Medicare managed care plan or a Medicare private fee-for-service plan, you'll need to enroll in both Parts A and B. And Medicare Part B is never free — you'll pay a monthly premium for it, even if you are eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A.

How much does Medicare cost?

Medicare deductible amounts and premiums change annually. Here's what you'll pay in 2019 if you're enrolled in Original Medicare:

	Premium	Deductible	Coinsurance
Part A (hospital)	None for most people, but noneligible individuals pay up to \$437 per month (if they have 39 or fewer quarters of Medicare-covered employment)	\$1,364 per benefit period	\$341 a day for the 61st to 90th day each benefit period; \$682 a day for the 91st to 150th day for each lifetime reserve day (total of 60 lifetime reserve days); \$170.50 a day for the 21st to 100th day each benefit period for skilled nursing facility care

Part B (medical)	The standard Part B premium amount is \$135.50 (subject to an income-based adjustment). However, some people who get Social Security benefits will pay less than this amount. See below for more information.	\$185 per year	After satisfying a deductible if one applies, you normally pay 20% of the approved amount for medical expenses (20 to 40% for outpatient mental health services, 20% for hospital charges for outpatient hospital services, nothing for laboratory services)
------------------	---	----------------	--

If you have your premiums deducted from your Social Security benefits, and the increase in your benefits for 2019 will not be enough to cover the Medicare Part B increase, then you may pay less than the standard Part B premium. Otherwise, you may pay the standard Part B premium of \$135.50. You'll also pay the standard Part B premium of \$135.50 (or higher) if:

- You enroll in Part B for the first time in 2019.
- You don't get Social Security benefits.
- You're directly billed for your Part B premiums.
- You have Medicare and Medicaid, and Medicaid pays your premiums.
- Your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your federal income tax return from two years ago is above a certain amount.*

The table below shows what you'll pay if you're in this group.

If you file an individual income tax return with income that is:	If you file a joint income tax return with income that is:	If you file an income tax return as married filing separately with income that is:	Monthly premium in 2019:
\$85,000 or less	\$170,000 or less	\$85,000 or less	\$135.50
Above \$85,000 up to \$107,000	Above \$170,000 up to \$214,000	N/A	\$189.60
Above \$107,000 up to \$133,500	Above \$214,000 up to \$267,000	N/A	\$270.90
Above \$133,500 up to \$160,000	Above \$267,000 up to \$320,000	N/A	\$352.20
Above \$160,000 and less than \$500,000	Above \$320,000 and less than \$750,000	Above \$85,000 and less than \$415,000	\$433.40
\$500,000 and above	\$750,000 and above	\$415,000 and above	\$460.50

*Beneficiaries with higher incomes have paid higher Medicare Part B premiums since 2007. To determine if you're subject to income-related premiums, the SSA uses the most recent federal tax return provided by the IRS. Generally, the tax return you filed in 2018 (based on 2017 income) will be used to determine if you will pay an income-related premium in 2019. You can contact the SSA at (800) 772-1213 if you have new information to report that might change the determination and lower your premium.

Since Original Medicare doesn't cover every type of medical care, and you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance, you may want to buy a Medicare supplemental insurance (Medigap) policy.

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you'll generally pay one monthly premium for that plan in addition to your Medicare Part B premium. Each Medicare Advantage plan has different premiums and costs for services, and coverage varies, so what you'll pay depends on the plan you have.

Who administers the Medicare program?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has overall responsibility for administering the Medicare program and sets standards and policies. The CMS also manages the official government website for Medicare, medicare.gov. But it's the SSA that processes Medicare applications and answers Medicare eligibility questions.

How do you sign up for Medicare?

You'll generally be automatically enrolled in Medicare when you turn 65 if you're already been receiving Social Security or

Railroad Retirement Board benefits for at least four months before you turn 65. The SSA will notify you that you're being enrolled. If you're not automatically enrolled and are eligible for Medicare at age 65, you have a 7-month initial enrollment period to sign up for Part A and/or Part B.

Although there's no cost to enroll in Medicare Part A, you'll pay a premium to enroll in Medicare Part B. If you've been automatically enrolled in Part B, you'll be notified that you have a certain amount of time after your enrollment date to decline coverage. Even if you decide not to enroll in Medicare Part B during the initial enrollment period, you can enroll later during the annual general enrollment period that runs from January 1 to March 31 each year. However, you may pay a slightly higher premium as a result, depending on the circumstances

If you decide to postpone applying for Social Security past your 65th birthday, you can still enroll in Medicare when you turn 65. The SSA suggests that you call (800) 772-1213 three months before you turn 65 to discuss your options. The easiest way to apply for Medicare is online at [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov).

NOTICE: This material has been prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc. for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

We inform you that any tax or legal advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding taxes/penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

This message and any files transmitted with it may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not disclose, copy, distribute or use this information. Please advise the sender email of the error and delete all copies from your files.



Harmony Wealth Strategies
William F. McAllister, Jr., CLU®
22 Morgan Farms Drive, Suite 4
South Windsor, CT 06074
860-836-9314
Bill@HarmonyWealthStrategies.com
www.HarmonyWealthStrategies.com